

Kansas State Fire Marshal – Fire Prevention Division

References (s): K.S.A 31-133, 06-IFC/703.4

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FIRE FACT 005 – ROLLING FIRE DOORS

Rolling overhead fire doors have been used by architects in buildings to provide separation from one addition to another, or to separate buildings. These doors can cause severe exiting and life safety problems when released. Roll-down doors are extremely heavy and are typically unstopppable once activated. Currently, the potential threat of rolling fire doors outweighs any potential benefit they might offer. When activated during a fire, the rolling fire doors carry a huge potential to injure building occupants and create unexpected dead-end corridors which could easily trap occupants.

Each building owner should consult with their insurance carrier and local building and fire authorities to see whether or not fire separation is required by the rolling fire door across exit corridors.

If a fire-rated door is not required at a location, the overhead rolling door should be secured or removed.

If a fire-rated door is required, the rolling door should be secured in place or removed completely, and then replaced with properly rated swinging doors. If the overhead doors cannot be immediately eliminated, the rolling doors shall be checked to insure they are being maintained properly and plans should be made to replace the doors.